

family member, or for their own personal safety;

Whereas many military commanders frequently force child soldiers to commit gruesome acts of ritual killings or torture against their enemies, including against other children;

Whereas many military commanders separate children from their families in order to foster dependence on military units and leaders, leaving children vulnerable to manipulation, deep traumatization, and in need of psychological counseling and rehabilitation;

Whereas child soldiers are exposed to hazardous conditions and risk physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, malnutrition, deformed backs and shoulders from carrying overweight loads, and respiratory and skin infections;

Whereas many young female soldiers face the additional psychological and physical horrors of rape and sexual abuse, being enslaved for sexual purposes by militia commanders, and forced to endure severe social stigma should they return home;

Whereas children in northern Uganda continue to be kidnaped by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) which is supported and funded by the Government of Sudan and which has committed and continues to commit gross human rights violations in Uganda;

Whereas children in Sri Lanka have been forcibly recruited by the opposition Tamil Tigers movement and forced to kill or be killed in the armed conflict in that country;

Whereas an estimated 7,000 child soldiers have been involved in the conflict in Sierra Leone, some as young as age 10, with many being forced to commit extrajudicial executions, torture, rape, and amputations for the rebel Revolutionary United Front;

Whereas the international community is developing a consensus on how to most effectively address the problem, and toward this end, the United Nations has established a working group to negotiate an optional international agreement on child soldiers which would raise the legal age of recruitment and participation in armed conflict to age 18;

Whereas on October 29, 1998, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan set minimum age requirements for United Nations peacekeeping personnel that are made available by member nations of the United Nations;

Whereas United Nations Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping, Bernard Miyet, announced in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly that contributing governments of member nations were asked not to send civilian police and military observers under the age of 25, and that troops in national contingents should preferably be at least 21 years of age but in no case should they be younger than 18 years of age;

Whereas on August 25, 1999, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1261 (1999) condemning the use of children in armed conflicts;

Whereas in addressing the Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, urged the adoption of a global three-pronged approach to combat the use of children in armed conflict: first, to raise the age limit for recruitment and participation in armed conflict from the present age of 15 to the age of 18; second, to increase international pressure on armed groups which currently abuse children; and third, to address the political, social, and economic factors which create an environment where children are induced by appeal of ideology or by socioeconomic collapse to become child soldiers; and

Whereas the United States delegation to the United Nations working group relating

to child soldiers has opposed efforts to raise the minimum age of participation in armed conflict to the age of 18 despite the support of an overwhelming majority of countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress joins the international community in condemning the use of children as soldiers by governmental and non-governmental armed forces worldwide; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(A) the United States should not oppose current efforts to negotiate an optional international agreement to raise the international minimum age for military service to the age of 18;

(B) the Secretary of State should address positively and expeditiously this issue in the next session of the United Nations working group relating to child soldiers before this process is abandoned by the international community; and

(C) the President and the Congress should work together to enact a law that establishes a fund for the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of child soldiers.

HUGH AND LOUISE DENTON

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in today's fast moving economy, many people think it is entirely normal to hold 10 different jobs over the course of their working life. Obviously, the people who think this way have not met Hugh and Louise Denton. Hugh and Louise met at Archer's Drug Store in LaFayette, where Hugh was working behind the soda fountain. They were married 2 years later, in 1951.

In December of this year, Hugh and Louise will reach a combined total of 100 years of hard work at Mount Vernon Mills in Trion, GA. Hugh began his career as a helper in the laboratory, and has since worked his way to the position of lab floor manager. Louise started as a turner in the glove mill, and has now become a typist. Hugh has worked for the mill for 48 years, and Louise has been there for 52.

Even the plant where Hugh and Louise work is a symbol of steady and important economic contributions. With a history dating back to 1845, Mount Vernon Mills is the oldest continuing textile operation in one site in the entire State of Georgia. In a time when jobs and families change more often than winter weather, Hugh and Louise Denton are a model of steadfast devotion to family, job and community, for all of us.

HONORING THE BAILEY COMPANY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bailey Company, an Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant franchisee in Colorado, of 62 restaurants and over 1,000 employees, for business excellence and commitment to public service. This commitment has translated into

support for Colorado's chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The Bailey Company's efforts have included several fundraising and volunteer activities for over 15 years. In 1998, the company entered into an agreement with the Colorado Rockies of the National League featuring two Rockies players on plastic soft drink cups. Selling drinks at 25 cents over the standard price, the Bailey Company collected over \$38,000 and donated the dollars directly to Big Brothers Big Sisters. This summer, they signed on with Arby's first "Charity Tour Golf Tournament." This endeavor raised over \$200,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters through tournament fees, promotional events, coupon-book sales, a Rockies game and auctions.

The Bailey Company's General Manager Geoff Bailey, and numerous employees, have made support of Big Brothers Big Sisters their mission. They have been a national corporate sponsor and are Colorado's largest corporate sponsor. In addition to raising funds, they have raised awareness of the valuable programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and have provided leadership through board membership and scholarships contributions.

It is for these reasons I rise today to honor the Bailey Company. I hold them up to the House as an example of the best of America's business. The Bailey family and employees exemplify the industrious spirit and community involvement that made America great.

THE MAGNIFICENT PEARLIE EVANS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in December 1998 my right hand retired. My St. Louis District Director, Pearlle Evans withdrew from office life after a long and distinguished career in government service. I know Pearlle cherished her many years on my staff almost as much as I cherished her able and devoted service. I also believe Pearlle Evans has enjoyed her first year of retirement nearly as much as her co-workers and I have missed her daily presence.

Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, Pearlle Evans is an outstanding St. Louisan whose contributions to our community may be never-ending. As the occasion of the anniversary of her retirement from my office is approaching, I would like to take the opportunity to share with my colleagues the following story, which appeared in A Magazine (August 1999) about the life and times of the magnificent Pearlle Evans.

[From A Magazine, Aug. 1999]

PEARLIE—A MOVER AND SHAKER

She's a mover and shaker. Here, in St. Louis, Jefferson City, Washington D.C. Everywhere she goes. Often honored as one who continually gives back to her community, she now has 40 plus awards, certificates, and plaques that reflect 26 years of dedicated service during her tenure as district assistant to Congressman Clay of the first congressional district. She is someone who has never stopped giving. She is the magnificent Pearlle Evans. When you step in her private domain, all you see are turtles, turtles and more turtles. Ceramic turtles, plastic turtles, fluffy turtles, stuffed turtles, multicolored turtles, handmade turtles, etc. . . . turtles. I attempted to count them but each

time, I would lose count. Turtles, like herself, are living creatures, who are not afraid to stick their necks out she said, as she spoke in remembrance of the time she and journalism icon (the late) Betty Lee, went to Mississippi for the first year anniversary of Medgar Evers' assassination.

She reared back and glared at the ceiling. Her eyes were full of laughter as she reached out her hands as if to grasp the memory out of the air of how they all had to lay on the car floor during the entire ride to Evers' brother's house.

The town white folk were following behind them and shooting at the car. As the memories began to unfold, so did the history of a woman who was proud not only of her political and civil accomplishments, but even more, of the blessed privilege of knowing the family legacy from which she had come. With pride and gratitude she boasted with pleasure about her father's dad, grandpa Ingram. Says Evans, I love the story of the Ingram folk. She's a mover and a shaker. Here, in St. Louis, Jefferson city, Washington D.C., everywhere. A folk, she described, as being of good stock. She was reminded of this fact ever since she was about three years old. Also embedded in her heart were four generations of Ingram history whose roots trace back to a tall, herdsman people known as the Fulani tribe. A most cherished memory of her original homeland was when she first visited the tribe in 1970. Evans said the resemblance was such that she was thought to be African by other members of the Fulani tribe. She was immediately recognized by the village mother who seemed overwhelmed by Evans' presence. The village mother immediately took Evans' into her arms and commenced to cuddle her. She held, hugged and rocked her as tears streamed down from her eyes. She was told that all the Africans taken during the slave trade had been eaten by their captives. What a spiritual catharsis it was to see Pearlle Evans as final, living proof that this had not been the fate of her people. Like the Fulani, grandpa Ingram was also a herdsman. His produce included grapes, squash, pepper, green beans, beans, and various corn crops. A well established businessman, originally from Florence, Alabama, he also owned a cafe called the Ingram restaurant. The cafe probably would have had a different title if the family name had not changed after the emancipation proclamation.

Grandpa Ingraham wanted to remove the slavery background from the family name so he changed their name from Ingraham to Ingram, explained Evans. His parents, Roxanne and Thomas, however, were laid to rest under the name they were born with. Evans boasted with dignity about grandpa Ingram and his two brothers. The one, tragic incident that did occur, involved grandpa Ingram's first wife, Sarah. She died of asphyxiation in Alabama, during a house fire which was started by the town's Ku Klux Klansman in the early 1920's. Evans remembered her grandpa describing when he first met Sarah at a local community fair. She was the prettiest girl there he told Evans. Even though her parents thought his skin was too dark complected for their daughter, he was finally allowed to marry her in 1900. From this union came one dark child, uncle Cornelius and one brown child, aunt Edmonia who, born in 1910, was the first college graduate of the Ingram family.

Due to the financial success of the Ingram Restaurant, they were able to provide a home for many poor kids by inviting them into their own home. Evans also talked about Grandpa Ingram's great compassion for grandpa Jack, who was her mother's father. Grandpa Ingram loved grandpa Jack because he was a hard working farmer like

himself. She shared the story about the time the KKK was planning to kill grandpa Jackson and his family in order to steal their land. Evans said grandpa Ingram paid for four horses and a wagon so grandpa Jackson's family could be escorted to safety via a route much similar to that of an underground railroad. The NAACP also participated by covering up her mom and other family members with hay in an effort to help the family escape from the Ku Klux Klan's methods of terror. Undoubtedly, both sides of the family are loyal to this historic civil rights organization unto this very day, says Evans. This was not the first time someone from the Jackson lineage was subjected to impromptu behavior as a means to escape slavery. About three generations ago, aunt Molly, a great aunt of Evans, chose to jump ship rather than come to America as a slave. Aunt Molly was the sister of Mary, who begot Kate (grandpa Jack's wife) and was followed by Donna who mothered Pearlle. By the time grandpa Jack was born (1865) and had died (1949) he had fathered 17 children. Financially, the Jacksons were not as well off as the Ingrams, Evans expressed as she shared a family portrait. Thought, this family had very little money, they too, seemed rich in the knowledge of their family history. It was grandma Jackson who gave Evans most of the Jackson family's oral history. She told her that her own father was not a slave but a free man who lived and worked as a railroad porter up north. He had often kept a written record of the Jackson family history. Evans remembered her Aunt Minnie, who lived to be a ripe 94 years old as sort of the family coordinator. She was also told about aunt Amanda who married a Cuban and left the country, never to be seen again. According to family history, it was her hatred for white folks that encouraged her to leave the United States stated Ms. Evans. The last born of Grandpa Jack's children was Evan's mom and the first was uncle Henry. For all family members whose detailed stories are yet to be told, there are black heritage pictures all along her walls that definitely help fill the void. The atmosphere reflects a sentiment that embraces much of the trial and tribulations that kept both families together from one generation to the next. It was Grandpa Ingram's second marriage to Mae Bell in the late 1920s which began the generation of Ms. Evan's dad, who was the first of three children born from this union.

Mrs. Evans has been the District Assistant to Congressman William L. Clay since 1972. She attended Lincoln Elementary School and graduated from Vashon High School in St. Louis. She received her B.A. Degree in Sociology and Political Science from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, and her Master's Degree of Social Work from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Her professional experience includes years of government and community service. She has served as Commissioner of the Division of Community Service, Housing Relocation and Social Services for the Elderly, City of St. Louis, Worker and Supervisor for the United Church of Christ Neighborhood Houses, Fellowship Center and Plymouth House directing children, adults, senior citizens, and community organization activities.

Over the years, she has been a practicum instructor of Social Work at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University since the early seventies and the Missouri Coordinator for Voter Registration with Operation Big Vote. She has also been a Democratic political activist for candidates at the local, state, and national levels.

Mrs. Evans is a past President of the Board of Directors of the William L. Clay Scholar-

ship and Research Fund, member of the WEB DuBois Board of Directors, was the local Alpha Kappa Alpha Member of the Year and Life Member and was selected for the Ivy Wall of Fame at National Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois. She is now a 50 Year (Golden) Member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Mrs. Evans has been active in numerous professional organizations, boards, and committees. A few are the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW), National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW), NAACP Life Member, the United Negro College Fund, the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Committee, and the Regional Coordinator of the Push/Rainbow Coalition of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Mrs. Evans has received numerous civic and professional awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from Better Family Life; the Political Leadership Award from the Young Democrats of St. Louis; the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Martin Luther King Support Group; the National Association of Black Social Workers African Fidelity Award (St. Louis Chapter); The 1st Gwen B. Giles Award from the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus; the Distinguished Alumni Award from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work; and the Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of Negro Women. She has received certificates of appreciation for leadership and community service from many organizations including the St. Louis Job Corps Center, the YWCA, and the William L. Clay Scholarship and Research Fund. Mrs. Evans has traveled extensively and participated in many international conferences and workshops. In the early seventies, she was a Consultant for Rutgers University Forum for International Studies in Accra, Ghana. Some of her other cultural and educational travels include a St. Louis Sister City Conference in Dakar and St. Louis, Senegal, West Africa, Washington University's China Cultural Triangle Tour, and the Lutheran Public Housing Visits to Paris, London, Berlin, and other European cities. As a member of the African-American Cultural and Arts Network Organization, she attended workshops in the Ivory Coast, Spain and Morocco, Egypt, Salvador, Bahia, and Rio De Janeiro, Brasil. With the International Federation on Aging, she attended the third annual conference in Durban, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

RECOGNIZING DISASTER RELIEF WORKERS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give special recognition before Congress to the efforts of 88 young men who provided extensive disaster relief services and humanitarian aid to the people of San Pedro Sula, Honduras in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. Between November 1998 and April 1999, these men aided in rescue operations, distributed food and clothing, constructed housing for refugees, provided medical aid, and coordinated the collection and distribution of donated supplies from America, thus promoting hope, good will, and charity between the United States and Honduras. They should be commended for their sacrifice and commitment to serve their fellow man in a time of great need.

Levi Ackley, MN; Aaron Berg, Ontario; Nathan Beskow, OR; Evan Bjorn, OK; Adam